

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

Hiroshi TSUDA, et al.

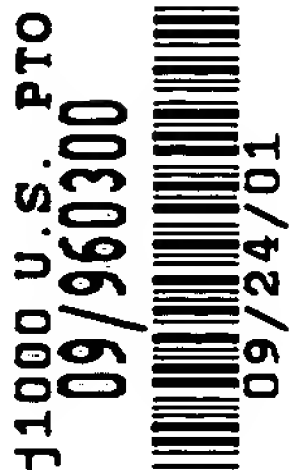
Application No.:

Group Art Unit:

Filed: September 21, 2001

Examiner:

For: MERCHANDISE MANAGEMENT METHOD, MERCHANDISE RECOMMENDATION  
METHOD, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM THEREFOR



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR §1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:

- 1a. ☒ Form PTO-1449.
- 1b. ☒ Copies of IDS citations.
- 1c. ☐ An English language copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report.
- 1d. ☒ English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) attached to each non-English language publication.
- 1e. ☐ Explanations of Relevancy of References (ATTACHMENT 1(e), hereto) for providing a concise explanation of each non-English publication.

2. ☒ In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is

(Check appropriate Items 2a, 2b, 2c and/or 2d)

- 2a. ☐ satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed "English-language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office". (See MPEP 609, Minimum Requirements for an Information Disclosure Statement, Part A(3): Concise Explanation of Relevance, pp. 600-100 to 600-101, Rev. 1, Feb. 2000.)
- 2b. ☐ set forth in the application.

- 2c. ☒ satisfied because an English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) is attached to each non-English language publication.  
2d. ☐ enclosed as Attachment 1(e), hereto.

3. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith). 37 CFR §§1.97(g) and (h).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 21, 2001  
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By: 

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|   |  |                                 |   |   |  |                                   |                |
|---|--|---------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>FORM PTO-1449</b><br><div style="text-align: center;">U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br/>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</div><br><div style="text-align: center;"><b>LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT</b></div> <div style="text-align: center;"><i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i></div> | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;">ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.<br/>826.1752</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;">APPLICATION NO.<br/><div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">11000 U.S. PTO<br/>09/960300</div></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 2px;">FIRST NAMED INVENTOR<br/>Hiroshi TSUDA, et al.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">FILING DATE<br/>September 21, 2001</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">GROUP ART UNIT</td> </tr> </table> | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.<br>826.1752 | APPLICATION NO.<br><div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">11000 U.S. PTO<br/>09/960300</div> | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR<br>Hiroshi TSUDA, et al. |  | FILING DATE<br>September 21, 2001 | GROUP ART UNIT |
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| FIRST NAMED INVENTOR<br>Hiroshi TSUDA, et al.   |  |                                 |   |   |  |                                   |                |
| FILING DATE<br>September 21, 2001   | GROUP ART UNIT   |                                 |   |   |  |                                   |                |

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | AA | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE    | NAME          | CLASS | SUB-CLASS | FILING DATE |
|------------------|----|--------------|---------|---------------|-------|-----------|-------------|
|                  | AA | 5,794,207    | 8/11/98 | Walker et al. | 705   | 23        | 9/4/96      |
|                  | AB |              |         |               |       |           |             |

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  |    | DOCUMENT NO.    | DATE    | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB-CLASS | TRANSLATION<br>YES                        | NO |
|--|----|-----------------|---------|---------|-------|-----------|---|----|
|  | AG | JP-A-9-311802   | 12/2/97 | Japan   |       |           | Japanese Gazette and its English Abstract |    |
|  | AH | JP-A-9-218876   | 8/19/97 | Japan   |       |           | Japanese Gazette and Its English Abstract |    |
|  | AI | JP-A-10-105572  | 4/24/98 | Japan   |       |           | Japanese Gazette and its English Abstract |    |
|  | AJ | JP-A-10-260979  | 9/29/98 | Japan   |       |           | Japanese Gazette and its English Abstract |    |
|  | AK | JP-A-2000-90111 | 3/31/00 | Japan   |       |           | Japanese Gazette and its English Abstract |    |
|  | AL |                 |         |         |       |           |   |    |

### OTHER REFERENCES (INCLUDING AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.)

|  |    |  |
|--|----|--|
|  | AM | Soumen Chakrabarti, et al. "Focused Crawling : A New Approach to Topic-Specific Web Resource Discovery" <a href="http://www8.org/w8-papers/5a-search-query/crawling/index.html">http://www8.org/w8-papers/5a-search-query/crawling/index.html</a> In WWW8, 1999. |
|  | AN | Junghoo Cho, et al., "Efficient Crawling Through URL Ordering", <a href="http://www-db.stanford.edu/~cho/crawler-paper/">http://www-db.stanford.edu/~cho/crawler-paper/</a> In WWW7 Conference, 1998.  |
|  | AO |  |

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| EXAMINER  | DATE CONSIDERED |
| <small>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</small> |                 |

# PRIOR ART INFORMATION LIST

31000 U.S. PTO  
 09/960300  
 09/24/01

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Your case No. |           |
| Our case No.  | 2001FJ534 |

| Inventor, Patent number, Country, Author, Title, Number of Document  | Issue date   | Concise Explanation of the Relevance<br>(indication of page, column, line, figure of the relevant portion) |
|--|--------------|--|
| USP 5,794,207  |              |  |
| JP-A-9-311802  | Dec.02, 1997 | Japanese gazette and its English Abstract  |
| JP-A-9-218876  | Aug.19, 1997 | ditto  |
| JP-A-10-105572   | Apr.24, 1998 | ditto  |
| JP-A-10-260979   | Sep.29, 1998 | ditto  |
| JP-A-2000-90111  | Mar.31, 2000 | ditto  |
| Soumen Chakrabarti, et al.<br>"Focused Crawling:<br>A New Approach to<br>Topic-Specific Web Resource<br>Discovery"<br><a href="http://www8.org/w8-papers/5a-search-query/crawling/index.html">http://www8.org/w8-papers/5a-search-query/crawling/index.html</a><br>In WWW8 | 1999         |  |
| Junghoo Cho, et al.<br>"Efficient Crawling Through<br>URL Ordering"<br><a href="http://www-db.stanford.edu/~cho/crawler-paper/">http://www-db.stanford.edu/~cho/crawler-paper/</a><br>In WWW7 Conference   | 1998         |  |